

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A peelable lid structure for a container, the peelable lid structure ~~including;~~including:

a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids; and

a tab extending from a centre panel of the peelable lid structure for removing the peelable lid structure from the container to allow access to the container contents;

in which the barrier layer ~~extends from the centre panel into the tab and includes~~ less than 20 microns thickness of aluminum; and

in which the tab is folded over the centre panel and secured in the folded position on the centre panel for processing of can contents or handling operations;

wherein the tab or centre panel includes a patch, an area of which is exposed by a hole in the tab or centre panel respectively, and the tab is secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

2. (Previously Presented) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the aluminum layer is not more than 15 microns in thickness.

3. (Previously Presented) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon or polypropylene.

4. (Currently Amended) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the tab is secured in the folded position by an adhesive or by heat sealing.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of forming a peelable lid structure having a centre panel and a tab extending from the centre panel, the method including:

folding the tab ~~portion~~ of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel and securing the tab to the centre panel;

~~characterised by:~~

providing the peelable lid structure with a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids that includes less than 20 microns thickness of aluminum;

forming a hole in a portion of a lidding material corresponding to the tab or the centre panel of the peelable lid structure;

covering the hole by fixing a patch to a first side of the lidding material, thereby forming an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the lidding material; and

cutting the peelable lid structure out of the lidding material;

~~and characterised in that wherein~~ by folding the tab ~~portion~~ of the peelable lid structure over the centre panel, the exposed ~~region~~area of the patch is covered by the centre panel; and

securing the tab to the centre panel ~~is by heat sealing or bonding~~ of the exposed area of the patch for processing of can contents or handling operations.

8. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the hole is formed in an inner part of the tab and the patch comprises an outer part of the tab portion of the

peelable lid structure, the method further comprising folding the outer part of the tab over an inner part of the tab, thereby covering the hole and forming the exposed area.

9. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein folding an outer part of the tab over an inner part of the tab so that the patch is disposed between the outer and inner parts of the tab; and fixing the outer part of the tab to the inner part.

10. (Previously Presented) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 2, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon or polypropylene.

11. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the patch includes a discrete piece of material, or an outer part of the tab which is folded over a hole on an inner part of the tab.

12. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the hole is formed in the centre panel of the peelable lid structure, the hole covered by the patch being fixed to a first side of the centre panel to form an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the centre panel, the tab covering the exposed area of patch when in the folded position, the tab secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

13. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the hole is formed in the tab of the peelable lid structure, the hole covered by the patch being fixed to a first side of the tab to form an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the tab, the exposed area of patch being covered when the tab is in the folded position, the tab secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

14. (New) A peelable lid structure for a container, the peelable lid structure including:

a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids; and

a tab extending from a centre panel of the peelable lid structure for removing the peelable lid structure from the container to allow access to the container contents;

in which the barrier layer extends from the centre panel into the tab and includes less than 20 microns thickness of aluminum; and

in which the tab is folded over the centre panel and secured in the folded position on the centre panel for processing of can contents or handling operations;

wherein the tab or centre panel includes a patch, an area of which is exposed by a hole in the tab or centre panel respectively, and the tab is secured in the folded position by an adhesive or by heat sealing to the exposed area of the patch.

15. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 14, wherein the aluminum layer is not more than 15 microns in thickness.

16. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 14, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon or polypropylene.

17. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 14, wherein the patch includes a discrete piece of material, or an outer part of the tab which is folded over a hole on an inner part of the tab.

18. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 14, wherein the hole is formed in the centre panel of the peelable lid structure, the hole covered by the patch

being fixed to a first side of the centre panel to form an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the centre panel, the tab covering the exposed area of patch when in the folded position, the tab secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

19. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 14, wherein the hole is formed in the tab of the peelable lid structure, the hole covered by the patch being fixed to a first side of the tab to form an area of patch exposed by the hole on the opposite side of the tab, the exposed area of patch being covered when the tab is in the folded position, the tab secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

20. (New) A peelable lid structure for a container, the peelable lid structure including:

- a barrier layer for preventing the passage of fluids; and

- a tab extending from a centre panel of the peelable lid structure for removing the peelable lid structure from the container to allow access to the container contents;

- in which the barrier layer extends from the centre panel into the tab and includes less than 20 microns thickness of aluminum; and

- in which the tab is folded over the centre panel and secured in the folded position on the centre panel for processing of can contents or handling operations;

- wherein the tab or centre panel includes a patch, an area of which is exposed by a hole in the tab or centre panel respectively, and the tab is secured in the folded position by bonding to the exposed area of the patch.

21. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the aluminum layer is not more than 15 microns in thickness.

22. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the peelable lid structure includes one or more of the following layers: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), aluminum, nylon or polypropylene.

23. (New) The peelable lid structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the tab is secured in the folded position by an adhesive or by heat sealing.